Status of the Claims

Claims 1-9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (currently amended) An annular axial seal ~~member~~ having a ~~generally~~ "j" shaped cross-section and comprising a first end portion having a first distal end, a generally curled second end portion that extends to a second distal end, and a central body ~~portion~~ between and contiguous with said first and said second end portions, said annular ~~sealing member~~ axial seal having a first side and an opposite second side, said second end portion curling in a first direction in accordance with a predetermined radius such that said second distal end is located across from said first side of said annular axial seal ~~member~~ and said first and second distal ends do not face each other.

Claim 11 (cancelled.

Claim 12 (currently amended) The annular axial seal ~~member~~ according to claim 10 wherein said central body ~~portion~~ has a generally frustro-conical shape and has no inflection points.

Claim 13 (currently amended) The annular axial seal ~~member~~ according to claim 10 wherein said annular axial seal ~~member~~ is metallic.

Claim 14 (currently amended) The annular axial seal ~~member~~ according to claim 13 wherein said annular axial seal ~~member~~ is fabricated from a metal chosen from the group consisting of nickel super alloys and nickel cobalt alloys.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The annular axial seal ~~member~~ according to claim 10 wherein said annular axial seal ~~member~~ has a degree of resiliency.

Claim 16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (currently amended) An annular axial metallic seal ~~member~~ comprising:

a first side and an opposite second side;

a generally frustro-conical central body ~~portion~~ having opposite ends;

a first end portion contiguous with one of said opposite ends of said generally frustro-conical central body ~~portion~~, said first end portion having a first distal end;

said central body having a thickness that tapers in the direction of said first distal end;

a generally curled second end portion contiguous with the other of said opposite ends of said generally frustro-conical central body ~~portion~~, said second end portion extending to a second distal end; ~~and~~

said second end portion curling in a first direction in accordance with a predetermined radius such that said second distal end is located across from said first side of said annular axial seal ~~member~~ and said first and second distal ends do not face each other[.] and

said first and second end portions and said central body being configured to provide said annular axial seal with a "j" shaped cross-section.

Claims 18-20 (cancelled)

Claim 21 (currently amended) The annular axial metallic seal ~~member~~ according to claim 17 wherein said annular axial metallic seal ~~member~~ has a degree of resiliency.

Claims 22-30 (cancelled)